

Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Spring Meeting April 26, 2006

Berry Hill
Frankfort, KY

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Horace Brown, Wade Helm, Jeff Hohman, Greg Higdon, Kurt Mason, Yvonne Meichtry, Evelyn Morgan,

Members not present: Frances Carter, Robin Chandler,

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the Council chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes - Mr. Hohman moved to approve the minutes from the winter meeting. Mr. Higdon seconded the motion and the winter Council minutes were approved. All members of the Council were in favor.

Commonwealth Water Education Project (CWEP) - Ms. Eller announced that CWEP had a very successful kickoff with ceremonies held in Northern Kentucky, Lexington, Louisville, and Bowling Green. A website has been established for citizens to learn more about nonpoint source pollution and public service announcements will be broadcast on television outlets in all areas of Kentucky. CWEP represents Kentucky's largest attempt to use social marketing for behavioral change. Several Council members requested copies of the various educational tools created by CWEP and Ms. Eller promised to send them right out.

Ms. Eller also notified members that the agency had received an additional grant from the EPA in the amount of \$250,000 for CWEP that specifically targets nonpoint source pollution in the upper Cumberland River basin. The Eastern Kentucky University College of Communications will be responsible for this portion of CWEP project.

Green & Healthy Schools Website – Ms. Lang and Ms. Eller gave an overview of the Green & Healthy Schools Website to Council members. They hope to have this extensive program online by July.

Nonformal Certification – Ms. Eller announced that the agency graduated its second class of Certified Nonformal Environmental Educators on February 22, 2006. To date, Kentucky has graduated 68 individuals from the program which exceeds what other states with standards based programs have accomplished. Ms. Eller is serving on the national committee which is drawing up guidelines for accrediting certification programs and stated that Kentucky is nearly compliant with these guidelines.

New Board Appointments – Ms. Eller notified members that their terms expire in October of this year. Ms. Eller requested that each member express their interest in being reappointed by writing and sending an e-mail to either herself or Mr. LeFevre by June 1.

Budget – Ms. Eller explained to Council members that HB174 money in the amount of \$874,000 that was to be used to implement the higher education portion of the master plan and that Sec. Fox had also asked be used to model job imbedded teacher professional development, had been removed from the agency by the senate and placed into the general fund during budget negotiations. Despite the loss of this funding, Ms. Eller was optimistic about future bond interest that had accumulated in the HB174 bond fund that could be used by the agency and disseminated to the regional universities for environmental education.

Mr. Helm suggested that Ms. Eller look into forming a 501 C3 organization as an adjunct to the Council so that the agency could raise funds from those entities that did not give to state government. Mr. Helm emphasized the need to secure non government funding. The Council instructed Ms. Eller to look into this and to meet with Dr. Jack Morgan who established the Centers for Economic Education. Ms. Eller said she would do so and get back to the Council with her findings.

Tuition Request – Ms. Eller informed Council members that Mr. LeFevre was in the process of applying to pursue graduate education and that she was recommending that the agency support his efforts through the education assistance act. (Mr. LeFevre left the room during this discussion.) She explained that Mr. LeFevre was doing an excellent job and that she thought it was important to support employees in their continuing education efforts. In addition, since the program is online, it would not involve flex time. She said her only concern was, with our very tight budget, we would only be able to provide a modest amount of support. She said she was recommending we grant Mr. LeFevre \$1,500 a year in tuition assistance. All Council members agreed that we should provide assistance. Mr. Hohman moved to provide a minimum of \$1,500 in tuition assistance in FY 06-07 and that the amount be increased to \$3,000 should the Council be in a financial situation to do so. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown asked if there was other old or new business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2006.